

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS22756C3

The sole purpose of this legislation is to empower Idaho citizens with some much needed free market buying power in relation to healthcare spending. This bill has been created to provide Idaho citizens with extra money to help offset extremely high healthcare costs that continue to escalate. It removes the current \$2,000 per person cap created in 1995 when the statute was written and healthcare was less expensive. It will provide incentive to Idaho employers when they contribute money to these savings account, on behalf of their employees. This bill is being brought in conjunction with a healthcare transparency bill that, when combined, will give Idaho citizens free market buying power against escalating healthcare costs.

FISCAL NOTE

The total up front cost for Idaho will be nothing. Depending on utilization, the potential tax liabilities are just under \$4,000,000. Because this legislation requires that medical savings accounts are exhausted before state assistance is offered for medical programs, there may be decreases in program utilization resulting in a positive fiscal impact to the indigent and CAT funds, and other programs that offer state assistance for medical care

Contact:

Representative Brandon A. Hixon
(208) 332-1000